



# PRIO

## Launch of New Initiative: Gender and Mediation Seminar

PRIO Gender, Peace  
and Security Update

Issue 3 2013

The PRIO Gender Peace and Security Update is an electronic newsletter launched by PRIO's Gender Team in response to growing interest among the public for information about women, peace and security issues. The newsletter will keep readers informed of the latest developments both internationally and in Norway in relation to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security and subsequent resolutions.



**Inger Skjelsbæk, Deputy Director, PRIO, Levent Bilman, Director, Policy and Mediation Division, UN Department of Political Affairs, and Gry Larsen, State Secretary, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Photo: Taral Jansen.**

**On 20-21 June**, the PRIO Gender Team organized a High-Level Seminar on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Processes in cooperation with the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**The High-Level Seminar** is a new effort initiated by UN DPA and UN Women, as part of their [Joint Strategy on Gender and Mediation](#). The goal is to increase the availability and quality of gender expertise in mediation processes, and support greater and more effective participation by women at all levels of conflict resolution and peacemaking. Further, the overall objective of the seminar is to generate more consultative processes by promot-

ing women's effective participation and building inclusive, gender-sensitive mediation capacity at international, regional and national levels. The seminar is the first in a series of six planned for a period of three years. The next seminar will be organized by CMI in Helsinki in mid-October.

**The opening ceremony** was attended by Gry Larsen, State Secretary, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Levent Bilman, Director, Policy and Mediation Division, UN Department of Political Affairs, and Inger Skjelsbæk, Deputy Director, PRIO.

**The participants** included senior peace mediation experts, such as Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, Commissioner for

Peace and Security, African Union, and Haile Menkerios, Special Envoy for Sudan and South-Sudan and incoming Special Representative to the African Union and Head of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU). A number of international organizations were represented, including various United Nations Offices, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Organization for Security and cooperation in Europe (OSCE), The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and the League of Arab States (LAS). Representatives from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands, and the government peace negotiating panel in the Philippines were also among the participants. The group of experts engaged in lively discussions over the topics covered in the seminar.

*"I would like to thank all involved for inviting me to what I found a most rewarding Seminar! The fascinating discussions and informal*

*conversations have changed my views on certain things forever!"*  
*Ambassador Adam Blackwell*

The two-day seminar was intense and demanding, focussing on gender and inclusive mediation process design on the first day, while the second day covered the key thematic areas of peace agreements and gender. Jan Egeland, Europe Director Human Rights Watch and incoming Director Norwegian Refugee Council, set the stage on the first day by addressing participants on the role of women at the peace table – inspiring a fruitful discussion on strategies to include women as stakeholders in formal negotiations. PRIO Researcher and Project Manager Torunn L. Tryggestad gave, together with Lone Jessen, DPA, a presentation on ‘International Gender and Peacemaking Normative Frameworks,’ introducing participants to key normative and policy developments regarding Women, Peace and Security.

Jamal Benomar, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General and UN Envoy to Yemen, gave what proved to be a highly interesting account of his work and the

UN’s engagement in the Yemeni peace process and political dialogue. The Yemeni Road map is the most well-thought-out transition plan in the Arab world, and Benomar emphasized the importance of having enough time for preparations, ensuring a high level of detail in the agreement, and the inclusion of women and youth in the peace process. He also underlined the role of the UN being perceived as an independent party with no hidden agenda, and that the key UN capital rests in its integrity and impartiality. Without it, the UN loses its position, and its legitimacy.

*"It was indeed interesting and useful. Jamal Benomar's presentation on achievements in Yemen was the high point of the meeting - a standout, and something the UN should be proud of."*

*Karin Landgren, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Coordinator of United Nations Operations in Liberia (UNMIL)*

Speaking on the topic of engaging so-called “track 2 actors” in formal negotiations was Sanam Anderlini, founder and Executive Director of International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), an organization that specializes in opening political space for women in conflict situations. Anderlini has also worked as a UN expert on Gender and regularly advises international actors on the inclusion of women in peace processes. Several UN Standby Team Mediation Experts also shared their knowledge and experience on ceasefire and security arrangements, sexual violence in conflict, powersharing and women’s political representation, constitutional and law reform, and gender-relevant language of peace agreements.



Jamal Benomar, UN Envoy to Yemen (left) and Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra (speaking). Photo: Taral Jansen.

**Inclusive mediation** rests on the assumption that building a sustainable peace would require an integration of societal perspectives – those of conflicting parties and other stakeholders – and its design includes multiple entry points and diverse mechanisms for participation. An inclusive mediation process, however, does not imply that all stakeholders can participate directly in the formal negotiations, but it can facilitate a structured interaction between the conflict parties and other stakeholders to include all perspectives in the process.

**The High-level Seminar** is rooted in the premise that women living in and experiencing conflict have strategic knowledge and form part of networks that can contribute to conflict resolution. Women are therefore important actors in ensuring sustainable peace processes. Gender dynamics create unique opportunities and challenges for peacemaking and need to be understood, analyzed, and used for strategic advantage. As inclusivity may increase opportunities for reaching sustainable agreements, more systematic consultation of and outreach towards women across societies would assist mediators in their jobs.

*“The participation of women is one of the defining issues of our time. We all need to be creative about how we practically promote this important agenda in our peace work. This seminar provides ways and experiences on how we may do that.” Haile Menkerios, Special Envoy for Sudan and South-Sudan.*

**For more information** about the High-Level Seminar, visit:

- [PRIO website](#)
- [PRIO Gender Peace and Security Update Facebook-page \(pictures\)](#)
- [DPA website](#)
- [CMI website](#) ■



**Seminar participants engaging in lively discussion, facilitated by Andrew Marshall, Senior Adviser (standing, left), CMI. Photo: Taral Jansen.**

## After the War: What Does the Future Hold for Women?

**As the peace negotiations** between the Colombian government and the FARC guerrilla continue, Colombia’s many grassroots organizations for internally displaced women are increasingly asking themselves: After the war, what does the future hold for women?

**This important question** was also the focal point for a series of events co-organized by PRIO at Universidad de Los Andes in Bogota, on 2-3 May. The events brought together female community leaders, Colombian cause lawyers, government officials and international scholars to imagine a Colombia after the war. The idea motivating these events was that as academics committed to social justice, we want to make sure that if the peace process fails to achieve peace for women it will be due to a lack of political will, not of the imagination.

**Panelists** were invited to imagine a future for women after the war. What would everyday life look like in the aftermath of

war, and what would remain of the past? How would relationships be transformed? What might transformative reparations look like? What social institutions could shape women’s future after war? Speakers included Ruth Rubio, Donny Meertens, Lucie White and Veena Das, among others.

**As emphasized** by several panelists, a peace agreement will not mean the end of violence. Professor of anthropology Veena Das (Johns Hopkins University) noted that we are at a critical moment in Colombian history, with immense tasks facing the civilian population. Das commented that the Colombian society should be prepared for intense debates on who is a survivor, commenting that no victim has an obligation to lead an exemplary moral life, or to show us that violence purifies.

**As pointed out** by professor of political science Universidad de Los Andes, Angelica Rettberg, reconciliation means different things for different people. In the context of massive violations, reparations cannot be imagined as “reverting” back to the previous situation, but rather as a political project with recognition of victims (Ruth Rubio, professor of comparative law, European University Insti-

tute). For example, the violence also has a gendered aspect; in a sense, the violence plays out between representations of the masculine and the feminine. These representations are not codified or formalized. Rather, they are everyday regulations of aggressive masculinities, invisible frontiers, selective assassinations, public torture, and territorial disputes (Maria Emma Willis, researcher at the Centro de Memoria Histórica). Recognizing the gendered aspects of the victims' silences created by the violence is thus a crucial step in reparation. ■

## Meeting of the Gender, Peace and Security Research Network

On Wednesday 29 May, the Gender, Peace and Security Research Network had its first of two meetings in 2013, held at PRIO. The network comprises approximately 50 researchers based in Norwegian universities, colleges and research institutes (both women and men), who in various ways conduct research on Resolution 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security agenda, broadly defined. The main purpose of the network is to facilitate a flow of information about ongoing and planned research activities and to encourage collaboration across institutions.

**Lovisa Strand**, Project Manager of Research in the Swedish NGO Kvinna til Kvinna ("Woman to Woman") attended as guest speaker. She gave the members an overview of the work her organization does, and its role in research. Kvinna til Kvinna identifies research questions, knowledge gaps and relevant issue areas, and reaches out to research communities. Lovisa Strand gave the members a comprehensive update on what her organization considers the main knowledge gaps and issue areas at the moment, based on their work in the field. Her insights were greatly welcomed by the members. Two presentations about ongoing

research projects were given by Ragnhild Solhjell (NUPI) on the operationalization of Resolution 1325 in the military, and by Kathleen Jennings (FAFO) on the unintended consequences of peacekeeping economies. The meeting was chaired by network coordinator Torunn L. Tryggestad, PRIO. ■

## Conflict Resolution in Kashmir and Northeast India: Do Women have a Voice?

In a seminar at PRIO on 24 May 2013, Rita Manchanda, Senior Program Executive at the South Asian Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR), talked about women's mobilization and the significant agency of women in conflict situations in Kashmir and Northeast India. In Northeast India, the Naga peace process represents India's paradigmatic conflict and peacemaking process.

As described by Manchanda, the protracted ceasefire in Nagaland has expanded the middle space for non-partisan civil

society activism (including women's groups) to initiate a significant reconciliation process, and new proposals for resolving decades-old problems. These new initiatives are associated with the emergence of a nascent middle class, which is the product of penetration of the Indian state and market. However, changes in elite stratification have produced not only growing tensions between the traditional elite and the 'middle class' professionals (women as well as men), but also a particularly sharp gender-backlash.

As in many identity-based struggles, there is now a backlash against translating women's authority in the informal sphere of politics and peacebuilding into formal politics and peace negotiations. Women are pushed back by the valorization of customary laws and traditions as defining the community's 'identity'. In the case of Kashmir, women and women's groups such as the Muslim Khawateen Markaz have pushed for entry into the 'separatist' political forum of the Hurriyat Conference, but as described by Manchanda, these women have been trivialized and even victimized. Women also continue to be marginalized and ignored in formal peace negotiations, especially by state agencies.



Rita Manchanda, South Asian Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR). Photo: Julie Lunde Lillesæter.

**Manchanda** holds an MA in Philosophy and International Relations from the University of Geneva. A journalist, writer, researcher and human rights activist, she has dedicated much of her work to bridging the deep divides between India and Pakistan.

**Manchanda** advocates for the integration of women peacebuilders into the policy arena, firmly believing in the vision of alternate, people-focused security and the power of participatory democracy. She is also the founder and a national committee member of the Pakistan India People's Forum for Peace and Democracy, and an active member of the Indian nuclear disarmament movement. Her many publications include the edited volumes *Women, War, and Peace in South Asia: Beyond Victimhood to Agency* (Sage 2001) and *States in Conflict with Their Minorities: Challenges to Minority Rights in South Asia* (Sage 2010). Manchanda is currently carrying out research for the PRIO project 'Making Women Count for Peace: Gender, Empowerment and Conflict in South Asia'. ■

## Seminar on Challenges and Solutions to Local Conflicts and Violence in Haiti and Guatemala

On 6-7 February 2013, a two-day seminar in Guatemala City was organized by the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), the Centre d'Études et des Recherches sur le Développement des Cultures et des Sociétés, Haiti (CERDECS) and the Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (NOREF). The seminar brought together researchers from Haiti, Guatemala, Norway and Argentina to work on themes of conflict prevention and resolution.

**Violence appears** in many forms in both Guatemala and Haiti. PROPAZ research-

er Carlos Sarti emphasized that although the signing of the 1996 Peace Accord in Guatemala represented an important moment, many structural problems were not resolved and currently violence in Guatemala is higher than it was during the war. Similarly, CERDECS researcher Alain Gilles emphasized that violence in Haiti is mainly linked to structural issues like poverty and the consequences of migration. However, whereas Guatemalans – with experiences from the war in mind – fear the repressive power of the state, Haitians complain about the almost total absence of the state and of basic services as a form of structural violence.



PRIO Senior Researcher Wenche Hauge (middle right) together with seminar participants. Photo: Private.

With respect to patterns of violence, some themes were given special attention – prominent among these was the violence against women in Guatemala. FLACSO researcher Ana Silivia Monzón emphasised that in Guatemala, work to prevent violence against women has addressed both the political agenda and the media. One challenge has been that because this work was initiated by the feminist movement, it has often been perceived as having been imported from the West.

However, currently more and more indigenous people and Garífunas (descendants of Carib, Arawak and West African people) are also becoming involved. Among the issues that were raised during her presentation was the problem of teenage pregnancies - involving girls below the age of 14 years. Part of the problem is that people in the com-

munities have become used to it, and therefore do not condemn it sufficiently. As emphasized by Monzón, this represents sexual abuse and should be considered a crime.

Questions were also asked about the causes of the high level of violence against women in Guatemala. Part of the blame was laid on the long-lasting and violent civil war, but some researchers also pointed to the Catholic Church – which has been present in the country since the time of colonization – and its views of women as being subordinate to men as an important part of the problem.

CERDECS researcher Rachele Doucet emphasized that, in contrast to the teachings of the Catholic Church in Guatemala, men and women are considered equal in the Vodou religion in Haiti, and women can become houngans (Vodou priests) just like men. However, the general level of violence against women in Haiti is also high, and for many other different reasons.

A much-repeated topic in the discussion was the need to pay more attention to how people in local communities perceive their own situation, and what capacities and traditions already exist for conflict prevention and resolution in these communities. Often parallel structures to the municipal structures exist, and these are seldom taken into consideration by non-governmental organizations or by external actors that intervene to organize conflict prevention in communities.

Many participants expressed their concern about imported solutions to conflict resolution, as these are seldom adapted to local realities. Instead, several participants argued that a better solution may be to identify and work on already existing structures and improve their weak aspects. ■



Zainab Hawa Bangura (centre right), Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, addresses the Security Council meeting on Women and Peace and Security. Photo: UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz.

## Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security and New Resolution

On Monday 24 June, the UN Security Council held an open debate on Women, Peace and Security with a focus on sexual violence in conflict. The open debate attracted more than 60 speakers, including United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict Zainab Hawa Bangura.

Before the debate, the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2106 (2013), which calls for the inclusion of sexual violence in the definition of acts prohibited by ceasefires and in ceasefire-monitoring agreements, and urges targeted sanctions against perpetrators of sexual violence during armed conflict.

The adoption of a new UNSC Resolution was expected, as the United Kingdom presided over the Security Council in June, and has also made combatting sexual violence in conflict a priority under the auspices of the G8 Presidency this year. William Hague, UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said that the UK was taking the lead in developing an international protocol on investigation and documentation of sexual violence in conflict, which aimed to set out practical standards to document those crimes. Read a summary of the debate [here](#). ■

## NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives Annual Conference

On 28 May 2013, at NATO headquarters in Brussels, the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives held a conference on how NATO can prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in

conflict.

Gender advisers from 31 member states participated in the conference, along with Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Zainab Hawa Bangura. Representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs United Kingdom were also present to discuss an initiative launched by the UK, "Preventing Sexual Violence", under the auspices of the G8 Presidency. The initiative is an important milestone in the fight against sexual and gender based violence in armed conflict.

Inger Skjelsbæk, Deputy Director and Senior Researcher, PRIO, was one of the invited speakers on a panel on "Understanding Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Conflict", where she spoke about the complexity of sexual and gender-based violence – both how it undermines conflict and post-conflict resolution, and how it affects individuals and entire communities. The panel was moderated by Mari Skåre, NATO Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security. ■



Inger Skjelsbæk, Senior Researcher and Deputy Director, PRIO. Photo: Mari Skåre.

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# International News

**The NATO Committee** on Gender Perspectives held its 2013 Annual Conference on 28 May (see separate story).

**ACUNS** held its [annual meeting](#) in Lund, Sweden, 17-19 June. The topic was Leadership in Global Governance, and the program included several sessions on Women's Leadership.

**The UN Security Council** held an Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security and unanimously adopted Resolution 2016 (2013) on conflict-related sexual violence on 24 June (see separate story).

**Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka** from South Africa was appointed the new Executive Director of UN Women by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 10 July. For more information, see [UN Women press release](#). ■

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# News from Norway

**The Gender, Peace and Security Research Network** held its spring/summer meeting at PRIO on 29 May (see separate story).

**A NUPI Seminar** on NATO's implementation of SCR 1325, Women, Peace and Security took place on 4 June. Jan Frelin presented the recent evaluation conducted by the Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI) on the topic. The evaluation has been conducted at the request of the North Atlantic Council.

**The Women's Suffrage Week** took place in Norway, 11–20 June 2013. A number of events took place during this week in June celebrating the Women's suffrage

centenary in Norway 1913-2013.

**Shirin Ebadi** spoke about Women's rights and participation at a venue in Bergen on 11 June in the event of the official celebration of the Women's suffrage centenary in Norway 1913-2013.

**A breakfast meeting** with Idelta Maria Rodrigues, State Secretary for Gender Equality, East Timor, was organized by The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)'s Section for Rights and Gender Equality (LIRE) in June. ■

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# News from PRIO

**A Seminar** on Challenges and Solutions to Local Conflicts and Violence in Haiti and Guatemala was organized by the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), the Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), the Centre d'Études et des Recherches sur le Développement des Cultures et des Sociétés, Haiti (CER-DECS) and the Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (NOREF) on 6-7 February (see separate story).

**A workshop and partners meeting** on the research project 'Making Women Count for Peace: Gender, Empowerment and Conflict in South Asia' took place at PRIO on 23 May.

**A PRIO Seminar** with Rita Manchanda, South Asian Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR) took place on 24 May. The topic was Conflict Resolution in Kashmir and Northeast India: Do Women have a Voice? (see separate story).

**A Series of Events** on the topic After the War: What does the future hold for women? was co-organized by PRIO at Universidad de Los Andes, in Bogota, Colombia, on 2-3 May (see separate story).

**The PRIO Gender Team** organized a High-Level Seminar on Gender and In-

clusive Mediation Processes in cooperation with the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) on 20-21 June in Oslo (see separate story).

## Inger Skjelsbæk

- Attended the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives 2013 Annual Conference as keynote speaker. Brussels, 28 May.
- Gave a presentation at the spring/summer meeting of the Research Network on Gender, Peace and Security. PRIO, 29 May.
- Gave an opening speech at the High-Level Seminar on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Processes, organized by PRIO and UN DPA. Oslo, 20-21 June.

## Torunn L. Tryggestad

- Participated at a breakfast meeting on 'Women quotas in business boards' with Alison Smale, Executive Editor, International Herald Tribune. The meeting was organized by Business for Peace. Oslo, 15 May.
- Attended the workshop 'Making Women Count for Peace'. PRIO, 23 May.
- Organized and chaired the spring/summer meeting of the Research Network on Gender, Peace and Security. PRIO, 29 May.
- Gave a presentation on 'International Gender and Peacemaking Normative Frameworks' at the High-Level Seminar on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Processes, organized by PRIO and UN DPA. Oslo, 20-21 June.

## Helga Hernes

- Attended the Gender, Peace and Security Research Network Meeting. PRIO, 29 May.
- Spoke about «Global aspects of women's political participation» at a venue in the event of the official celebration of the Women's suf-

frage centenary in Norway 1913-2013. Other speakers included Shirin Ebadi. Bergen, 11 June.

- Gave a speech at the book launch of «Norsk Likestillingshistorie 1814 til 2013» (Norwegian History of Gender Equality 1814 to 2013) by Hilde Danielsen, Eirinn Larsen and Ingeborg W Owsen. Bergen, 10 June.
- Attended the High-Level Seminar on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Processes, organized by PRIO and UN DPA, Oslo, 20-21 June. ■

## Recent PRIO Publications

**Sandvik, Kristin B. and Julieta Lemaitre (2013).** Internally displaced women as knowledge producers and users in humanitarian action: the view from Colombia. *Disasters*, 37: 36–50. ■

## Other Recent Publications

**Bell, Christine (2013).** Women and Peace Processes, negotiations, and agreements: Operational Opportunities and Challenges. Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (NOREF) Policy Brief, March 2013.

**Bell, Christine and Catherine O'Rourke (2011).** UN Security Council 1325 and Peace Negotiations and Agreements. Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. Opinion, March 2011.

**Buchanan, Cate, Adam Cooper, Cody Griggers, Lira Low, Rita Manchanda, Rebecca Peters and Antonia Potter Prentice (2012).** *From Clause to Effect: Including Women's Rights and Gender in Peace Agreements.* Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue. Geneva, Switzerland.

**Diaz, Pablo Castillo (2010).** *Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations: Connections between Presence and Influence.* UNIFEM, part of UN Women.

**International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) (2013).** *What the Women Say: Elusive Peace, Pervasive Violence: Sri Lankan Women's Struggle for Security and Justice.* Spring 2013, Brief 8.

**Jenkins, Robert and Anne-Marie Goetz (2010).** *Addressing Sexual Violence in Internationally Mediated Peace Negotiations.* *International Peacekeeping*, 17:2, 261-277.

**Mitchell, Laura E. (2013).** *Wilton Park Conference Report: Women in Peacebuilding, Monday 18- Wednesday 20 March 2013.* WP 1191.

**Page, Michelle, Tobie Whitman and Cecilia Anderson (2009).** *Bringing Women into Peace Negotiations. Strategies for Policymakers.* No. 2, October 2009, Institute for Inclusive Security.

**Potter, Antonia (2008).** *Gender Sensitivity: Nicety or Necessity in Peace-process Management?* Oslo Forum Background Paper, Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue.

**Skjelsbæk, Inger (2013).** *Statsfeministen, statsfeminismen og verden utenfor.* Stemmer 6 (series). Aschehoug, Oslo. ■

## Coming Events

**Australia** has announced that they will highlight 'Women, peace and security'—with a particular focus on the 'leadership role of women in peace and conflict situations' - during their SC presidency in September. For more information, see [UN Women website](#).

**High-Level Seminar on gender and Inclusive Mediation Processes.** The second seminar in the series will take place in Helsinki on 8-10 October. ■



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The PRIO Gender, Peace and Security Update is published by the PRIO Gender Team with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway. If you wish to find out more about PRIO Gender Team's current research projects, please visit our website [www.prio.no/gender](http://www.prio.no/gender). If you have any comments or inquiries regarding the newsletter, please contact the editors: [jenlor@prio.no](mailto:jenlor@prio.no)